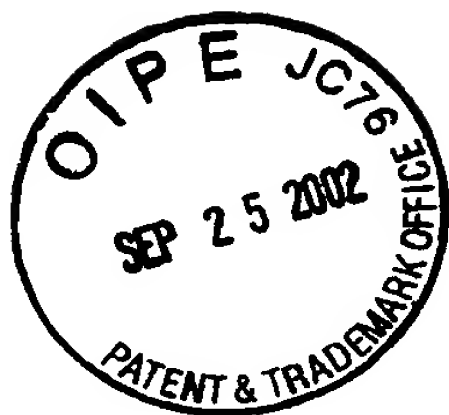


RECEIVED

SEP 26 2002

TC 1700

#7/BM
9-27-02



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 064951/0147/SP01-050

Applicant: Monica K. Davis et al.

Appl. No.: 09/821,474

Examiner: J. Derrington

Filing Date: March 30, 2001

Art Unit: 1731

Title: METHOD FOR MAKING PHOTSENSITIVE FIBER SUITABLE FOR
WAVELENGTH STABILIZATION GRATINGS

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in reply to the Office Action dated July 2, 2002.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,426,129 ("Matsumura"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites a "method of making a preform for an enhanced photosensitive fiber" that includes, *inter alia*, the step of "collapsing the successive layers of optical material in a reducing atmosphere with a positive pressure."

Independent claim 9 recites a "method of making an enhanced photosensitive fiber" that includes, *inter alia*, the step of "making a preform using modified chemical vapor deposition wherein the preform is collapsed in a reducing atmosphere with a positive pressure."

Matsumura fails to teach or suggest a method that includes collapsing successive layers of optical material (claim 1) or a preform (claim 9) in a reducing atmosphere with a